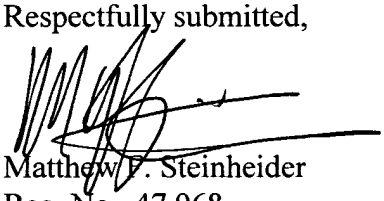
II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicant has amended several claims so as to bring the application into a condition such that the claims can be recognized as being allowable. The Examiner noted that claims 1-20 were allowable, and that claim 34 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that these claims were allowable. In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 21 to include the limitation of objected to claim 34. Applicant now believes that all claims are allowable, and respectfully asks the Examiner to withdraw the rejections and allow the claims as currently written.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 713-787-1516, or by email at steinheiderm@howrey.com with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew P. Steinheider
Reg. No. 47,968
Attorney for Applicant

HOWREY LLP
750 Bering Drive
Houston, Texas 77057-2198
(713) 787-1400

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